

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Chris Riley
 Councilmember Debra Musgrove
 Councilmember Matt Woestehoff

Also Present: City Engineer/Public Works Director Bruce Westby
 Assistant City Engineer Joe Feriancek

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Riley called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Musgrove and Woestehoff.
Voting No: None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve October 17, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 17, 2023

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Woestehoff and Musgrove.
Voting No: None.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Recommending City Council Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Barthel's Rum River Acres and White Pines Estates Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #24-01

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorization for advertisement for bids for Barthel's Rum River Acres and White Pines Estates Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #24-01.

Chairperson Riley asked and received confirmation that a homeowner is allowed to put the type of driveway they want within the right-of-way.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if there is a policy which states that any above a base level concrete replacement would be at the owner's expense within the right-of-way.

Chairperson Riley commented that the group is making that decision now as this would be the process going forward.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek provided some photos of different driveway types they have encountered and stated that they have replaced with in-kind materials which results in a large range of expense.

Chairperson Riley commented that he does recall the problems on Andre Street.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if raising the road would result in going further up into a driveway.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek confirmed that up 16 to 18 feet of one driveway will need to be replaced to add a culvert under a driveway to correct a drainage issue.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if the pipe could be lowered instead.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that if the pipe were lowered, it would just be full of water and would not function.

Chairperson Riley commented that he would tend to follow the current practice of replacing what is there.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that he would tend to agree. He asked if there would be an option to put a concrete driveway cost as a separate line item. He stated that for those that have the driveways above regular concrete (colored/stamped), they could be offered replacement of regular concrete or to receive that credit towards having their own contractor replace the driveway as they choose. He stated that he does not want the City to be involved in attempting to match colored concrete.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she gets the point of not wanting to be in it, but is also concerned that homeowners may not complete the job. She stated that she would prefer that the dollars be placed direct to the contractor, versus the homeowner to ensure the work is done. She asked what other cities do. She stated that she does not like doing some more than others because that is within the right-of-way and therefore it should be standard.

Chairperson Riley commented that this is a City project and therefore it needs to be done with the project.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that he does want the City to have to stamp the concrete or deal with that contractor and should instead keep it equal.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that there are fewer stamped/colored concrete contractors compared to regular concrete contractors. He stated that staff could bid standard concrete for all driveways and bid special concrete driveways as alternate bids if the City wanted to better understand the cost difference. He stated that they could then discuss whether the City or property owner wanted to pay the difference.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented that he partially supports the comments of Chairperson Riley to replace what exists, noting that it is a small scale compared to the total project price.

Chairperson Riley commented that he would say the City should make its best attempt to match and then move on, he would not support tearing it up and repeating.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that if there is stamped, colored concrete the resident is most likely fussy on what it looks like. He stated that would be an expectation they set with the property owner up front.

Chairperson Riley agreed that it would be important to communicate that expectation that the City will do its best to match, otherwise it could be replaced with regular concrete.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that they would follow the typical process and bid the special concrete as a separate pay item. He stated that unless the cost appears out of line, they would proceed as typical but if the cost is much higher, they could bring that back to the Committee for additional discussion.

Chairperson Riley commented that the alternative would be to create a policy similar to sprinklers, which allows different types of driveways in the right-of-way, but it is the responsibility of the resident to replace.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if they could see the policy for sprinklers in order to consider a driveway policy.

Chairperson Riley commented that it would seem harsh to make the residents pay for that cost when they have been replacing the driveways for 50 years.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that perhaps the alternative would be to do standard concrete going forward.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek completed the review of the proposed project.

Councilmember Woestehoff referenced the storm sewer portion of the project which mentioned culverts. He referenced the Ford Brook Estates street reconstruction project that was completed in 2019 but additional storm sewer improvements are now being considered there, asking if there are similar concerns for this area.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek provided additional details on the differences. He stated that this would be graded to the same existing outfall.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids for Barthel's Rum River Acres and White Pines Estates Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #24-01.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Musgrove and Woestehoff. Voting No: None.

5.02: Update on Halls Dover Acres Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #24-02

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation from staff to complete the 12-inch trunk watermain extension from Potassium Street to the Sodium way cul-de-sac off of Sunfish Lake Boulevard. Additionally, staff recommends allowing service connections off of the trunk watermain to properties along the proposed route. However, staff only supports allowing connections which will be ready for immediate hook-up, and does not recommend extending watermain in the subdivision beyond what is necessary for the trunk watermain loop connection as identified in the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Riley commented that if they are putting water through the neighborhood, it would seem short sighted to not offer the connections to residents.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek asked that if it is supported to allow connections to the trunk line for the proposed route, would the Committee want staff to be proactive and reach out to residents or wait for them to reach out. He stated that if the connections are supported, they would only want to allow that for residents that want immediate hook up rather than extending services just to do so as some people choose not to connect.

Councilmember Musgrove asked the differences between the trunk extension and not on the map.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed those options.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented that the purpose is to connect the loop and he supports that completion. He also agreed that if they are going to do that, he would want to be proactive,

asking residents if they would like to hook up at this time. He stated that some people may choose to do so while others may not.

Chairperson Riley commented that if the road is going to be open, they could offer the residents the lower price to connect now, noting that if they choose to connect later it would be a higher price. He asked if the short-term fix would hold up for another year.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that was related to sanitary sewer.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that as long as people respond prior to bidding, adding the connections would not slow the project down.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she agrees with the watermain loop. She asked and received confirmation that the offer to connect to water would only be for residents along that route. She referenced the dead-end and asked if that utility stub is water or sewer.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that would be water coming down the Radium Street stub with a hydrant for flushing. He stated that sewer is already stubbed across Sunfish Lake Boulevard for that area.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if this street would receive fire hydrants.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby confirmed that to be correct.

Chairperson Riley asked if there is consideration to install sewer at this time.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that is not part of the Comprehensive Plan and they do not anticipate that sewer will be added within the next 60 years.

Chairperson Riley echoed that it would make sense to offer connection to water for residents with clear communication that it would be much more expensive to connect in the future.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby referenced a few properties on the west side where the street is not being torn up, but trunk water is being extended and asked if staff should reach out to those properties. He stated that they would run the water down the east side of the street and therefore it would be more costly to offer connections to properties on the west side since the street would need to be patched.

The Committee confirmed the consensus that water should only be offered along the route where the street project is occurring.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek confirmed the consensus of the Committee to complete the entire trunk extension and staff will reach out to the residents along 157th to provide the option for them to immediately connect to water with the project.

Chairperson Riley stressed the importance of clear communication with a cutoff date for residents to make that choice.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek provided photos of a resident that recently installed a driveway and culvert where stormwater work will be completed, noting that they will attempt to match with that. He also completed the review of the proposed project details.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recommend to the City Council for the Dover Hills Acres Street Reconstruction to complete the 12-inch trunk watermain extension from Potassium Street to the Sodium Way cul-de-sac off of Sunfish Lake Boulevard and offer residents immediate service connections off of the trunk watermain to properties along the proposed street reconstruction route.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Musgrove and Woestehoff. Voting No: None.

5.03: Consider Recommending City Council Authorization to Prepare Plans and Specifications for 2024 MSA Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #24-06

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation to recommend City Council authorization to prepare plans and specifications for 2024 MSA (Municipal State Aid) Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #24-06.

Councilmember Woestehoff referenced 142nd and noted that 144th spurs off of there but does not appear to be included. He asked if that section could easily be included.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that they could look at that option as it would not be difficult at this stage to include it.

Chairperson Riley noted a north/south road as well.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that those streets may be in worse shape, but staff could look into that.

Chairperson Riley commented that would seem to make sense as it would complete the neighborhood. He asked why 142nd is an MSA road.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that previously an MSA route could be designated for a non-existing route and the idea was to connect to Bowers Drive, which did not occur. He stated that the non-existing routes will eventually need to be removed from the MSA street system.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that she would be interested to know if 144th is included in a future project for reconstruction. She stated that if the road is already included and moved up that would seem to make sense.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek confirmed that staff would look at that option. He stated that they have not yet started producing plans for the project and in 2023 they added an additional segment to the project, so it would not be odd to do so again.

Councilmember Musgrove referenced McKinley Street and asked how close that is to the Sunfish interchange.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied it is about one-half mile from the interchange.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the different projects that have been completed in the immediate area and noted that over the course of a few years most of the streets in the area will be reconstructed or receive pavement overlays. He stated it would make sense to add McKinley Street to this MSA project.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to recommend City Council authorization to prepare plans and specifications for 2024 MSA Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #24-06.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Woestehoff and Musgrove. Voting No: None.

5.04: Consider Recommending City Council Authorization to Prepare Plans and Specifications for 2024 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #24-07

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation to recommend City Council authorization to prepare plans and specifications for 2024 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #24-07.

Councilmember Woestehoff referenced the Bowers Drive cul-de-sac, which is the longest in the city, and asked the anticipated length of time for that portion of the project.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek anticipated that it would take several weeks and provided more details on the different activities that would occur.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that the road would remain passable and usable throughout.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek referenced the stub street section of Basalt Street which is gravel and could be converted to bituminous, providing a high-level estimate and noting that a funding source is not identified.

Chairperson Riley confirmed the consensus of the Committee to proceed with the estimate to convert that segment to bituminous. He asked and received confirmation that the roads proposed for overlay are the best candidates for that type of improvement.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to recommend City Council authorization to prepare plans and specifications for 2024 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #24-07 with the additional extension of Basalt and potentially adding 144th and Alpaca.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Woestehoff and Musgrove. Voting No: None.

5.05: Consider Recommendation for City Council to Accept Bids and Award Contract for Water Treatment Plant Trunk Watermain Improvements, Improvement Project #21-08

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation from staff and SEH to recommend that the City Council accept bids and award a construction contract for Improvement Project #21-08 to Northdale Construction Company Inc. in the amount of \$6,671,414 for the Alternate bid. Upon approval from the Public Works Committee, staff will present a case to the City Council to accept bids and award a contract for construction on November 28, 2023.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she was happy to see the bids come in the City's favor.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recommend that the City Council accept bids and award a construction contract for Improvement Project #21-08 to Northdale Construction Company Inc. in the amount of \$6,671,414 for the Alternate bid.

Further discussion: Councilmember Woestehoff asked for additional input from staff on the "free road". City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that the reconstruction of 143rd Avenue is part of the bid for this project whereas 143rd Avenue was not proposed to be improved with the previous project when bids were rejected.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Musgrove and Woestehoff. Voting No: None.

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: Staff Updates on Improvement Projects and Items of Interest

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby provided an update on current and proposed City, County, and MnDOT improvement projects and studies, and on other items of interest to the Committee.

Councilmember Musgrove asked for an update on pavement management funding and bonding. She recognized that the intent was to increase projects in 2024 and asked for an update on how that is going in terms of staff pressure and planning.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that bond dollars would be used for 2024 and remaining bond dollars would be used in 2025. He stated that in 2023 the City spent about \$1,000,000 less than anticipated in the CIP. He confirmed that all bond dollars would be spent by 2025.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that staff has been very busy delivering the projects but believed that 2024 and 2025 will be easier as staff is now able to work on plans earlier and get ahead of the process, whereas in 2023 they scrambled to get plans prepared and out for bids in time for construction.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek confirmed that they are a few months ahead of where they were last year in terms of planning and plan preparation, which is helpful.

Councilmember Musgrove commended staff for their work, noting that the completed roads and trails are nice.

6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that they are trying to work on the listed items to move them off the list as appropriate.

Chairperson Riley referenced the replacement of the monument sign at 47 and Bunker and confirmed that should be removed from the list as the Committee has already provided a recommendation.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if the pothole plan for spring should occur a bit earlier than it did last year, as it seemed rushed.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that this last year was an anomaly and they learned a lot through that process. He stated that they will watch the roads closely this Winter and have projects ready for the Council to consider in the Spring, as needed.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she did not see the sound wall listed.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that this project is addressed in the improvement project updates and that he has a meeting scheduled with MnDOT in the coming weeks and plans to bring that project forward for bids as a 2024 project.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to adjourn the Public Works Committee meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce Westby
City Engineer/Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.